

BEFORE  
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF  
SOUTH CAROLINA  
DOCKET NO. 98-419-E - ORDER NO. 98-655

AUGUST 26, 1998

IN RE: Request of Carolina Power & Light Company	)	ORDER
for Confidential Treatment of Certain	)	GRANTING
Avoided Cost Data that the Company is	)	CONFIDENTIALITY
Required to File with the Commission at	)	
Least Every Two Years Pursuant to PURPA.	)	

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the Commission) on the request from Carolina Power & Light Company (CP&L) for confidential treatment of certain avoided cost data that it is required to file with this Commission at least every two years pursuant to PURPA (the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978).

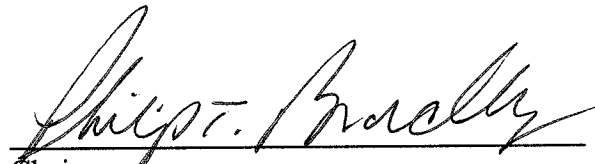
CP&L states that, pursuant to Commission Regulation 103-804(Y)(2), the Commission should find the filed information (except for CP&L's 1997 Resource Plan) not to be a "public record," and should therefore, protect it from public disclosure. This information discloses CP&L's estimated cost to procure additional energy and/or capacity as well as the actual cost of new capacity/energy to be procured through CP&L's competitive bidding process and through the construction of new CP&L owned generation. The wholesale power market is extremely competitive, according to CP&L, and in order for CP&L to obtain the most cost effective energy and capacity necessary to meet the needs of its customers, it must protect from public disclosure its projected and

actual incremental costs to procure such energy and/or capacity. CP&L states that if this information was publicly available, potential suppliers would know the price against which they must bid and, rather than bidding the lowest price possible, they would simply bid a price low enough to beat CP&L's projections.

We have examined this matter, and agree with CP&L's stated reasoning for wanting to keep the material confidential. We do believe that because of the extremely competitive nature of the wholesale power market as stated, that we should declare the filed material (except for CP&L's 1997 Resource Plan) not to be a "public record" under Commission Regulation 103-804(Y)(2), and therefore, confidential.

This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

  
Chairman

ATTEST:

  
Acting Executive Director

(SEAL)